## **Periodicals**—Automation Flats

Related QSGs: 200, 750, 820, 922, 923, 924



## Eligibility Overview (E210, E240)

All Periodicals mail must be sorted and may be eligible for a reduced rate if prepared and sorted under additional specific standards. Mailings eligible for automation discounts must contain automation-compatible (C820), 100% ZIP+4 barcoded or delivery point barcoded (C840) pieces, sorted as described below. Each piece must include a complete delivery address with correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code.

### Rates and Fees (R200)

Rates include addressed piece charge, pound rates (advertising and nonadvertising), and applicable discounts; factors include place of mailing, destination, presort, etc.

- 5-Digit, 3-digit, and basic rates are package-based. Outside-County rates apply per E217; In-County rates apply to all eligible in-county copies of other than requester publications.
- 5-Digit: Six or more pieces sorted to 5-digit packages and placed into 5-digit, 3-digit, SCF, ADC (L004), and mixed ADC sacks.
- 3-Digit: Six or more pieces sorted to 3-digit packages and placed into 3-digit, SCF, ADC (L004), and mixed ADC sacks.
- Basic:
  - Six or more pieces sorted to ADC (L004) and pieces sorted to mixed ADC packages and placed into ADC and mixed ADC sacks.
  - Fewer than 6 pieces sorted to 5-digit or 3-digit packages.

Destination entry discounts (DSCF and DADC) have additional standards (E250).

Not all presort levels may be claimed in combination with other automation or destination entry discounts.

Pallet discount: \$0.005 per-piece discount available for each addressed nonletter-size piece prepared in packages on pallets.

Destination entry pallet discount: \$0.015 per-piece discount available for each addressed nonletter-size piece prepared in packages on destination entry pallets.

Ride-Along rate available for items eligible as Standard Mail (E260).

# Addressing (A800, A950)

Each piece must also include a complete delivery address with correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code. Address and barcode quality subject to A800 and CASS/MASS standards in A950. Addresses matched using CASS/MASS-certified process within 180 days before mailing.

## Characteristics and Content (C820, C840)

Maximum weight: 20 ounces for automated flat sorting machine (AFSM) 100 processing; 6 pounds for FSM 1000 processing.

Shape: rectangular.

Dimensions:

Flats may qualify for the automation discount based on the dimensions and flexibility criteria for the AFSM (automated flat sorting machine) 100 or FSM 1000. See C820 (or Quick Service Guide 820) for specific standards.

All letter-size reply cards and envelopes (business reply, courtesy reply, and metered reply mail) provided as enclosures must meet the standards in C810.9.

### Deposit (D200)

Only at authorized original and/or additional entry post office(s), unless authorized exceptional dispatch under D210.

# Mail Preparation and Sortation

Package preparation, labeling, and sacking (brown sacks only): see reverse. Documentation:

(M820)

- Postage statement: Form 3541, Periodicals One Issue or One Edition
- Supporting documentation: required by rates claimed, including marked copy. Documentation generated by PAVE-certified software or printed in standardized format.
- Form 3553 for address and barcode accuracy must be retained by mailer for 1 year (A950).

Pink barcoded sack labels required (M032). See reverse for pink sack label Line 2 information. Pieces meeting specifications for the Automated Flat Sorting Machine (AFSM) 100 in C820.2 must be prepared in separate packages from pieces meeting specifications for the FSM 1000 in C820.3. Separate package minimums (M820.3) must be met for each package type. Within each package, mailers may combine pieces of nonidentical weights if authorized under P900. AFSM 100 and FSM 1000 packages may be combined in the same tray.

Any mailing job that contains packages of Presorted flats and packages of automation flats must be co-sacked using M910.2.0.

## Postage and Payment Methods (P200, P950)

Advance deposit account(s) at original and each additional entry post office, unless authorized under Centralized Postage Payment (CPP).

This guide is an overview only. For the specific DMM standards applicable to this category of mail, consult the DMM sections referenced above and the general sections within each DMM module.



Quick Service Guide

## Packaging and Sacking Sequence (M820.4)

## 5-Digit (Required)

Packages: Pieces must be packaged if 6 or more pieces to same 5-digit ZIP Code; fewer than 6 pieces in a package permitted.

**Labels:** Red Label D or optional endorsement line

(OEL).

Rate: 5-Digit1

## 3-Digit (Required)

Packages: Pieces must be packaged if 6 or more pieces to same 3-digit ZIP Code prefix; fewer than 6 pieces in a package permitted.

Labels: Green Label 3 or

OEL.

Rate: 3-Digit1

## ADC (Required)

Packages: Pieces must be packaged if 6 or more pieces to same ADC (L004); fewer than 6 pieces in a package not permitted.

Labels: Pink Label A or

OEL.

Rate: Basic

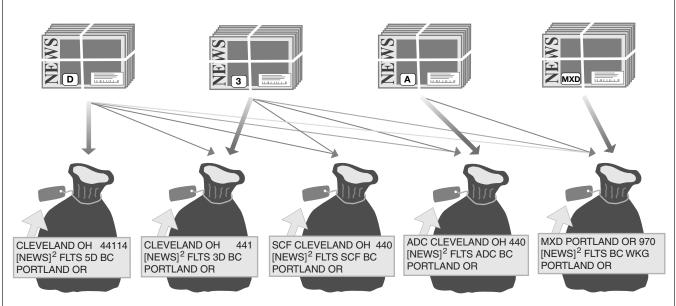
## Mixed ADC (Required)

**Packages:** Any remaining pieces must be packaged in mixed ADC packages.

Labels: Tan Label MXD

or OEL.

Rate: Basic



#### 5-Digit

Sacks: Required at 24 pieces; optional with one 6-piece package minimum to the same 5-digit ZIP Code.

**Barcoded Labels:** For Line 1, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP

Code on mail; for Line 2, "NEWS" (or "PER") and "FLTS 5D BC."

## 3-Digit

Sacks: Required at 24 pieces; optional with one 6-piece package minimum to same 3-digit ZIP Code prefix (except that a sack must be prepared for any packages for each 3-digit ZIP Code prefix of SCF serving post office where mail is entered).

## **Barcoded Labels:**

For Line 1, use L002, Column A; for Line 2, "NEWS" (or "PER") and "FLTS 3D BC."

## SCF

Sacks: Required at 24 pieces (no minimum for required origin/optional entry SCF); optional with one 6-piece package.

### **Barcoded Labels:**

For Line 1, use L002, Column C; for Line 2, "NEWS" (or "PER") and "FLTS SCF BC."

## **ADC**

Sacks: Required at 24 pieces; optional with one 6-piece package minimum to the same ADC (L004).

#### **Barcoded Labels:**

For Line 1, use L004; for Line 2, "NEWS" (or "PER") and "FLTS ADC BC."

## **Mixed ADC**

Sacks: Required, no minimum for any remaining packages placed into mixed ADC sacks.

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1, use L803 (for BMC/ASF entry, use L802); for Line 2, "NEWS" (or "PER") and "FLTS BC WKG."

- 1. Basic rate applies to packages with fewer than 6 pieces.
- 2. Use "PER" if issued less frequently than weekly.

Rate is based on type of package regardless of sack in which it is placed.